only authorised company to conclude such contracts. The above factual position clearly indicates that the complaint is false and baseless.

Acquisition of land for Air Force

3852. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether land measuring 16.27 acres at Laitkor Peak, Shillong was acquired by the Defence Estates Officer, Guwahati' during 1996 for Air Force utility;

(b) if so, the details of the specific reasons for acquiring the land by the Defence Estates Officer, Guwahati, when there was a clearcut decision from the Air Force authority not to acquire the said land;

(c) whether Government have fixed the responsibility for making payment of exorbitant amount of Rs. 1.06 crores during 1992 when original cost for the said land was 2.49 lakhs only in 1985; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Government sanction for acquisition of hired land measuring 16.27 acres at Laitkor Peak, Shillong, Meghalaya, was accorded in 1985. However, the final award was declared in 1993 and the awarded amount was paid to the Collector in 1996.

(b) Though, there was a proposal from the Air Force authorities for withdrawal of part of the land from acquisition but the land measuring 16.27 acres was acquired in 1996, in compliance of the orders of the Guwahati High Court and also due to the fact that Collector, Shillong had noted that land once acquired cannot be withdrawn as this land had become unfit for the purpose the owners were using it initially.

(c) and (d) The original cost of land was Rs. 2.49 lakhs which was assessed during 1985 whereas the cost on the date of publication of Section 4(1) of LA Act *i.e.* on 4.6.1992 in this case was to be paid. Therefore, an amount of Rs. 55,12,276 only has been paid as awarded by the Collector under Section 11 of LA Act and also in full satisfaction of the decree passed by Guwahati High Court.

Land acquisition by Air Force

3853. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Air Force Authorities acquired 455 acres of land in 1962 in the vicinity of M/s Sonapur Tea Estate, District Kangmp, Assam and had been using without acquisition for decades;

(b) if so, the details thereof includmg the purpose and present day utility;

(c) whether the owner of the land was paid recurring compensation for the period from March, 1963 to 1972 but not beyond that; and

(d) if so, the reasons for such delay in acquisition, in paying the R.C., acquisition compensation, and when it is likely to be made?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) An area measuring 475.17 acres of land was requisitioned during 1962/63 by DC Kamrup for Air Force Station at Digaru in the vicinity of Sonapur Tea Estate. Land measuring 455 acres out of this was acquired on 5.8.1992.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The acquisition proceedings took time due to the fact that the matter was subjudice. Acquisition compensation has been deposited with the Collector for payment to the rightful owners. However, the quantum of recurring compensation for the period from 12.5.1972 to 30.8.1976 is subjudice in the Court of Arbitrator appointed by State Government in pursuance of Hon'ble Supreme Court's Orders. The Collector, Kamrup, has already been requested to determine recurring compensation for the period beyond 30.8.1976 till 5.8.1992.